

## Message Text

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14

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OASD/ISA:MG RBOWMAN (DRAFT)

----- 011738

R 210002Z AUG 75  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
USMISSION NATO  
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS  
CINCLANT  
USCINCEUR  
USLOSACLANT  
USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T STATE 198550

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, NL

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REDUCTIONS IN NETHERLANDS ARMED FORCES

REF: A) USNATO 4356; B) HAGUE 4126  
SECRET

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1. DEPT STRONGLY SHARES VIEW THAT WE AND OTHER NATO ALLIES  
SHOULD BRING HOME IN CONCERTED FASHION TO GON SERIOUSNESS  
WITH WHICH WE REGARD THE PROPOSED FURTHER REDUCTIONS IN  
THE NETHERLANDS ARMED FORCES. AS DISCUSSED REFTELS WE

HOPE SERIES OF STRONG DEMARCHES WILL PREVENT SUCH UNRAVELLING IN ALLIED DEFENSE POSTURE AND LEND AMMUNITION TO THOSE WITHIN GON WHO OPPOSE THE CUTS.

2. FOR THE HAGUE: EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS TO SENIOR GON OFFICIALS: A) WE VIEW WITH GREAT CONCERN AND REGRET THE DUTCH PROPOSAL TO FURTHER REDUCE ITS ARMED FORCES COMMITTED TO NATO. B) THE REDUCTIONS MENTIONED IN BUWALDA'S LETTER WOULD SERVE TO FURTHER DIMINISH NATO'S SURVEILLANCE AND ASW CAPABILITY. AS THE NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE REPORT HAS POINTED OUT (REF A) THESE AREAS ARE ALREADY SUFFERING BECAUSE OF DELAYS IN THE GON'S REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE FOR BOTH THE CRUISER AND THE AIRCRAFT. THE SITUATION WILL BE AGGRAVATED IF THE GON CARRIES OUT

THE LATEST PLANNED REDUCTIONS. C) WE BELIEVE THE GON PROPOSALS ARE PARTICULARLY DEMAGING AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTIES IN THE ALLIANCE'S SOUTHERN FLANK, THE CURRENT UNCERTAINTY IN PORTUGAL, AND THE CONTINUING AND IMPORTANT NEED TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE USSR IN THE WAKE OF CSCE THAT WE ARE NOT RELAXING OUR COMMON DEFENSE. D) WE HOPE THE GON WILL RECONSIDER THE PROPOSED REDUCTIONS AND WILL AT LEAST WITHHOLD ANY FINAL DECISIONS PENDING CONSULTATION WITH ITS ALLIES.

3. IF GON OFFICIALS SHOULD POINT TO FACT THAT OTHER NATO MEMBERS (SUCH AS THE UK AND ITALY) HAVE RECENTLY BEEN FORCED BY BUDGETARY SQUEEZES TO MAKE CUTS IN DEFENSE EXPENDITURES, YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT THE ALLIES HAVE REGISTERED CONCERN ABOUT THESE REDUCTIONS AS WELL. FURTHERMORE THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE UK AND ITALY IS CONSIDERABLY MORE SERIOUS THAN IN THE NETHERLANDS AND THAT, AT LEAST IN THE CASE OF THE UK, THE PERCENTAGE OF GNP DEVOTED TO DEFENSE HAS SUBSTANTIALLY EXCEEDED THAT OF GON AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

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4. FOR BONN, BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN, LONDON, OSLO, OTTAWA: YOU SHOULD CONVEY TO HOST GOVERNMENTS OUR CONCERN OVER GON DECISION, ACTIONS WE ARE TAKING AND SUGGEST THAT, IF THEY HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, THEY ALSO APPROACH GON TO REGISTER CONCERN.

5. FOR USNATO: YOU SHOULD INFORM BUWALDA OF THE GRAVITY WITH WHICH WE VIEW THESE REDUCTIONS AND THAT WE ARE MAKING THESE VIEWS KNOWN TO HIS GOVERNMENT. A CONCERTED SERIES OF SUCH STATEMENTS TO HIM FROM OTHER ALLIES WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL AND YOU SHOULD ACCORDINGLY COORDINATE WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS. MAW

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BRUSSELS  
COPENHAGEN  
THE HAGUE  
LONDON

OSLO  
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